

HoodleBug Brass

The HoodleBug Brass is the brass quintet-in-residence at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and is comprised of the four full-time brass faculty within the Department of Music and the Assistant Dean of the College of Fine Arts. The ensemble performs regularly on the IUP campus and presents numerous clinics and concerts in public schools and churches throughout the region each year. In 2000 the HoodleBug Brass co-commissioned a new work for concert band and brass quintet by renowned composer Dr. John Cheetham. *Concertino for Brass Quintet and Symphonic Band* was premiered at the 2001 PMEA Conference held in Hershey, PA. In 2016 the HBB premiered *Concerto for Brass Quintet and Orchestra* by Pittsburgh composer Nancy Galbraith. The quintet performed the concerto with the Pittsburgh Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, under the direction of Roger Tabler (IUP 1990).

The HoodleBug Brass released its first compact disc, entitled *Brass Fac's*, in March 2004 and its second CD, entitled *Off the Trac's*, in 2009. *Christmas Postcards from the HoodleBug Brass*, the first commercial recording by the quintet, was released in October 2012. In October 2012 the quintet also performed at international brass festivals held in St. Petersburg and Moscow, Russia, and returned to Russia in 2015, along with the IUP Faculty Woodwind Quintet, for performances and master classes in St. Petersburg and Moscow.

The HoodleBug Brass performs works of all styles, from the Baroque to contemporary, pop and jazz. The members include:

Dr. Zach Collins is Associate Professor of Tuba and Euphonium at Indiana University of Pennsylvania where he also teaches theory, history, leads the IUP Tubaphonium Ensemble, and performs with the HoodleBug Brass Quintet. Zach received his B.M. in Tuba Performance from Texas Christian University where he studied with Richard Murrow and his M.M. and D.M.A. in Tuba Performance from the University of Southern California where he studied with Jim Self, Tommy Johnson, and Norm Pearson. He has performed with numerous ensembles including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Pacific Symphony, West Virginia Symphony, Johnstown Symphony and Keystone Wind Ensemble. Zach has several of his compositions and arrangements published through Cimarron Music Press.

Dr. Christian Dickinson has taught at IUP since 1985. He holds the Bachelor of Music Education and Master of Music degrees from Florida State University, and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Catholic University of America. His principal teachers have been William Cramer, Matty Shiner and Milton Stevens on trombone, and Philip Spurgeon and Istvan Jaray for conducting. Dr. Dickinson performs as principal trombone with the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra and the Keystone Wind Ensemble. As a soloist, he has performed with the Johnstown Symphony, U.S. Army Orchestra, North Pittsburgh Philharmonic, Ohio University Summer Band, Frostburg State Chamber

Players, IUP Orchestra, Percussion Ensemble, Concert Band and Symphony Band. He has appeared as soloist at the Eastern and International Trombone Workshops and has presented clinics at Eastern MENC and PMEA conventions. He has also performed for Frankie Avalon, Lew Christie, Peter Nero, Olivia Newton-John, Frankie Valli, LeAnn Rimes and Bernadette Peters. Dr. Dickinson recorded contemporary works for trombone and organ with the late Carol Teti. Dr. Dickinson also holds a third degree black belt in Songham Taekwondo.

Dr. Kevin Eisensmith received his Bachelor's degree in Music Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, his Master's degree in Music Performance from Georgia State University and his Doctorate of Musical Arts in Performance degree from Temple University. He was a member of and the solo trumpeter with the U.S. Army Forces Command Band in Atlanta, Georgia from 1979 through 1984. An active performer, Dr. Eisensmith has worked with Doc Severinsen, Aaron Neville, Roberta Flack, Natalie Cole, Olivia Newton-John, LeAnn Rimes and others. From 1999 until 2011 he served as the principal trumpeter with the Johnstown (PA) Symphony Orchestra and has been the principal trumpeter with the Altoona Symphony Orchestra since 2013. He served as President of the International Trumpet Guild from 2009 to 2011 and previously served as Secretary and Vice President. As the Professor of Trumpet at IUP, Dr. Eisensmith teaches applied trumpet and directs the IUP Trumpet Ensemble and the Jazz Ensemble.

Dr. David Ferguson is the Assistant Dean of the College of Fine Arts at IUP. From 2001-2012 he taught trumpet and music education courses in the IUP music department. Prior to that, Dr. Ferguson taught elementary, Jr. High, and High School music (primarily band and strings) in Decatur, Illinois for 6 years. David earned a BM in Music Education from Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois and an MME and EdD in Music Education from the University of Illinois. Dr. Ferguson has published several compositions and arrangements for brass instruments through *Eighth Note Publications* in Toronto, Canada. He continues to perform with the HoodleBug Brass and in a jazz combo with his wife Laura, who is also an IUP music professor. David and Laura have two children, Ella and Xavier.

Dr. Heidi Lucas is Assistant Professor of Horn at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She holds degrees from the Crane School of Music–SUNY Potsdam (BM), the Eastman School of Music (MM), and the University of Georgia (DMA). Her orchestral experience includes the Louisiana Philharmonic, Memphis Symphony, Lancaster Philharmonic, Aspen Festival Orchestra, Cobb Symphony Orchestra, Columbus (Ga.) Symphony Orchestra, Atlanta Pops Orchestra, Pensacola Symphony, and the Mobile Symphony. In addition to extensive teaching and chamber music experience, including residencies and tours throughout the United States, England, Brazil, Germany, Austria, and Panama, Dr. Lucas is currently a member of the Hoodlebug Brass Quintet and IUP Faculty Wind Quintet, as well as the Blenheim Brass Trio. She is active in promoting new music and has been part of commissioning projects for over 15 new works that feature the horn. Dr. Lucas has performed on programs at the 2014 International Horn Symposium in London, England; 2014 International Tuba/Euphonium Conference (ITEC) in Bloomington, Ind.; 2013 International Horn Symposium in Memphis, Tenn.; 2012 International

Tuba/Euphonium Conference (ITEC) in Linz, Austria; 2012 International Horn Symposium in Denton, Tex.; and the 2012 Mid-South Horn Workshop in Conway, Ariz., as well as part of several southeast horn workshops. She has had several publications, including reviews in the Horn Call and articles in the Grove Dictionary of American Music.

A “**HoodleBug**” is a local term for “doodlebug,” the name given to a single-car, self-propelled train or trolley. At the southern end of the IUP campus can be found the “Hoodlebug Trail.” This is a six-mile recreation and commuter trail located in the central portion of Indiana County. The original hoodlebug traveled between Blairsville and Punxsutawney.